

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 2, 4-16, 28, and 30-38 are pending. Claims 17-24 and 26-27 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 25, and 29 were previously canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-16, 28 and 30-38 are allowed. Claims 17-24, 26 and 27 are rejected. No claims are amended herein. In the Office Action:

1. Claims 17, 21-24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,477,648 (“Schell”) in view of United States Patent No. 7,222,188 (“Ames”).

2. Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schell and Ames, further in view of United States Patent No. 6,317,729 (“Camp”).

All claims not allowed by the Examiner are canceled herein. Therefore, this response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action,¹ and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

¹ As Applicants’ remarks with respect to the Examiner’s rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants’ silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.

It is believed that any fees associated with the filing of this paper are identified in an accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fees are required, they may be charged to Deposit Account 18-0013, under order number 65632-0560. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged against the aforementioned account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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